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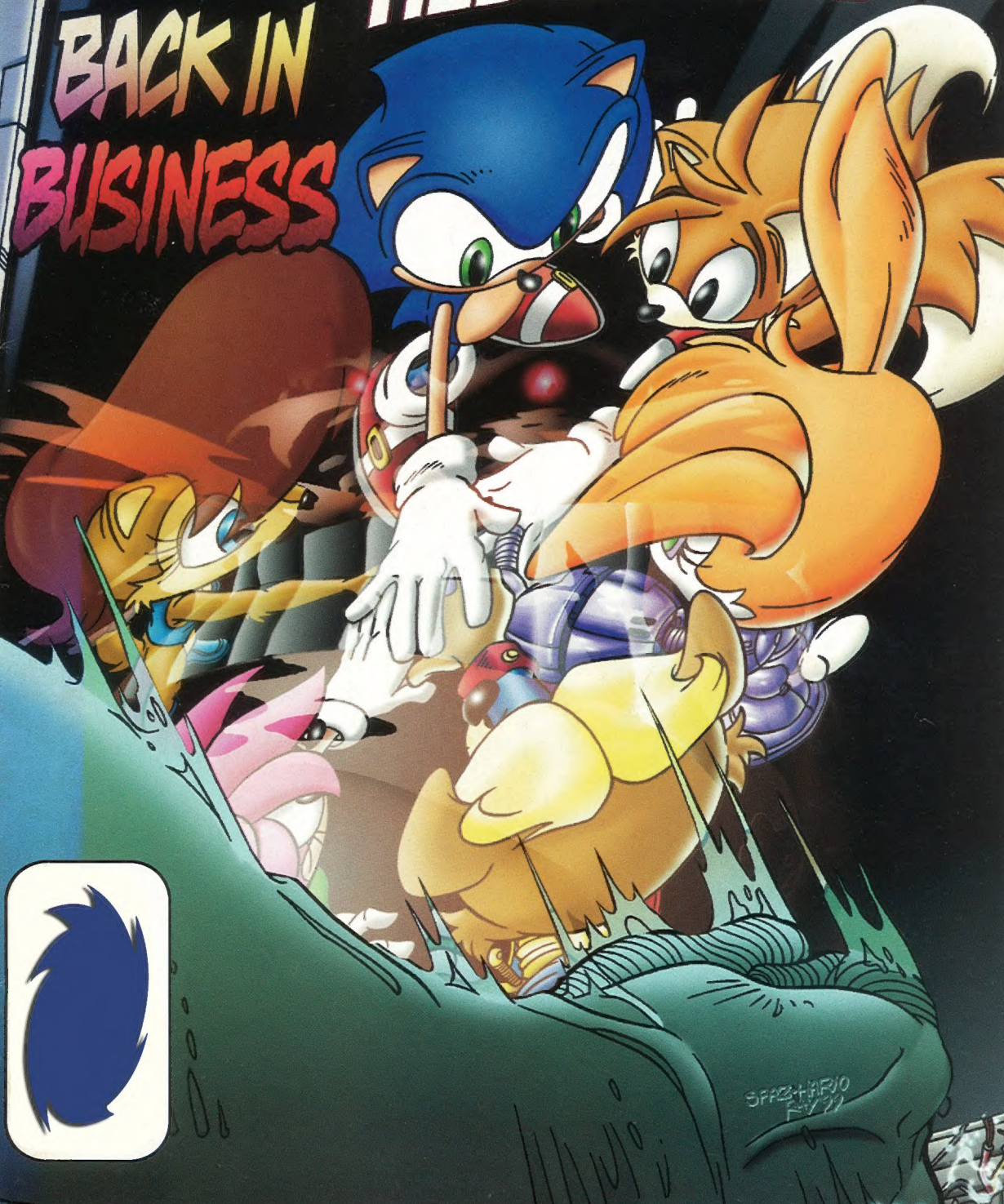
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# SONIC

# THE HEDGEHOG™



## BACK IN BUSINESS



SPREZZI/MERZO  
FEB 99



**THE PLANET MOBIUS WAS ONCE A VIRTUAL PARADISE UNTIL IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK! HIS TECHNOLOGICAL TYRANNY WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IF NOT FOR A HEROIC GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO BANDED TOGETHER AND RESTORED ORDER TO THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! THE BRAVEST AMONG THEM IS A BLUE STREAK FILLED WITH THE MOST ATTITUDE GOING AROUND -- AND, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE IS THE FASTEST THING ALIVE! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!**

**M**ORNING IN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...

WELL, MOM 'N DAD, DO YOU LIKE 'EM?

"LIKE 'EM?"  
"LIKE 'EM?"

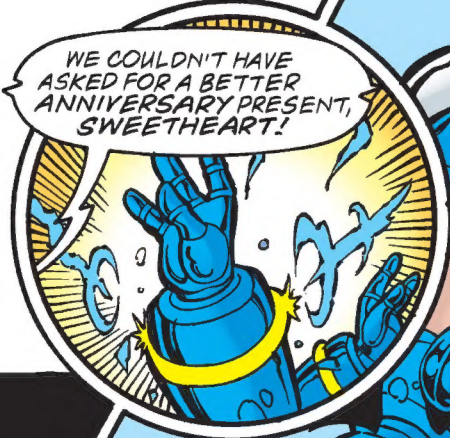
SONIC--THESE WEDDING BANDS ARE ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL!

**THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE**

|                        |                           |                     |                             |                         |  |                                |                                      |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 73, Aug., 1999. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.79 in the U.S.; \$1.99 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. \$21.48 for 12 issues; \$23.88 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA is registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sonic The Hedgehog and all related characters and indicia are trademarks of SEGA. © 1999 SEGA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada





WE COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER ANNIVERSARY PRESENT, SWEETHEART!




THANKS, SON!

YOU ALWAYS WERE MY FINEST STUDENT, CHARLES-- I'M GLAD TO SEE MY LESSONS PAID OFF.

SUCH INTRICATE DETAIL WORK... I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FORGE THOSE BANDS WITHOUT YOU.



I CAN'T HOG ALL THE CREDIT, FOLKS-- IT WAS UNCLE CHUCK AND NATE MORGAN WHO MADE THE BANDS OUT O' POWER RINGS!

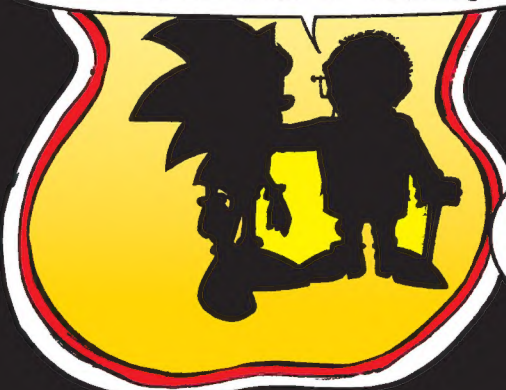


THANKS, NATE ... STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL FUNNY ABOUT RECEIVING SOLE CREDIT FOR THE CREATION OF THE RINGS ALL THESE YEARS...

...WHILE YOUR NAME AND EXISTENCE WERE LEFT OUT OF THE KINGDOM RECORDS.

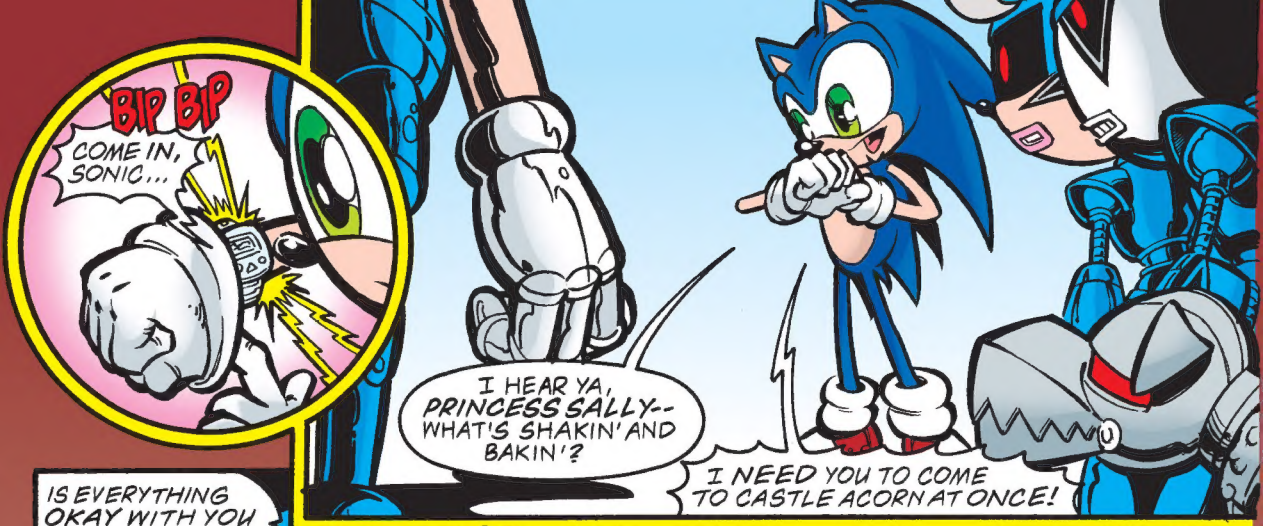
NONSENSE, CHARLES-- RATHER THAN HAVE ME BE MISTAKENLY REMEMBERED AS A TRAITOR TO THE REALM, KING MAX DECIDED UPON THAT COURSE OF ACTION.

BESIDES, YOUR INNOVATIONS HAVE ONLY HELPED TO ADVANCE MY THEORIES.



AND, WITH THAT SAID, I TAKE MY LEAVE. MAX GETS NERVOUS IF I'M AWAY FROM CASTLE ACORN FOR TOO LONG.





I HEAR YA, PRINCESS SALLY-- WHAT'S SHAKIN' AND BAKIN'?

I NEED YOU TO COME TO CASTLE ACORN AT ONCE!

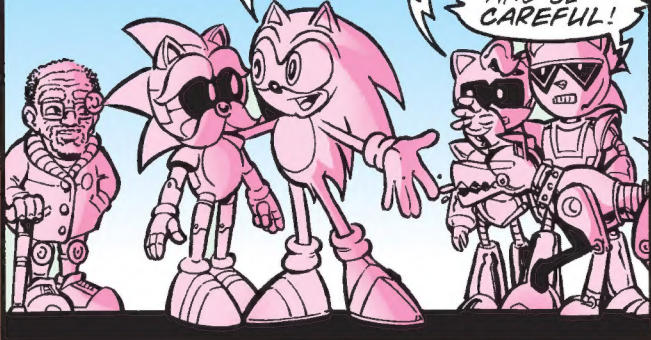
IS EVERYTHING OKAY WITH YOU AND YOUR GAL-PAL, SONNY-BOY?



I THINK SO, UNC... AND IF NOT WE'LL HANDLE THE PROBLEM, WHATEVER IT IS.

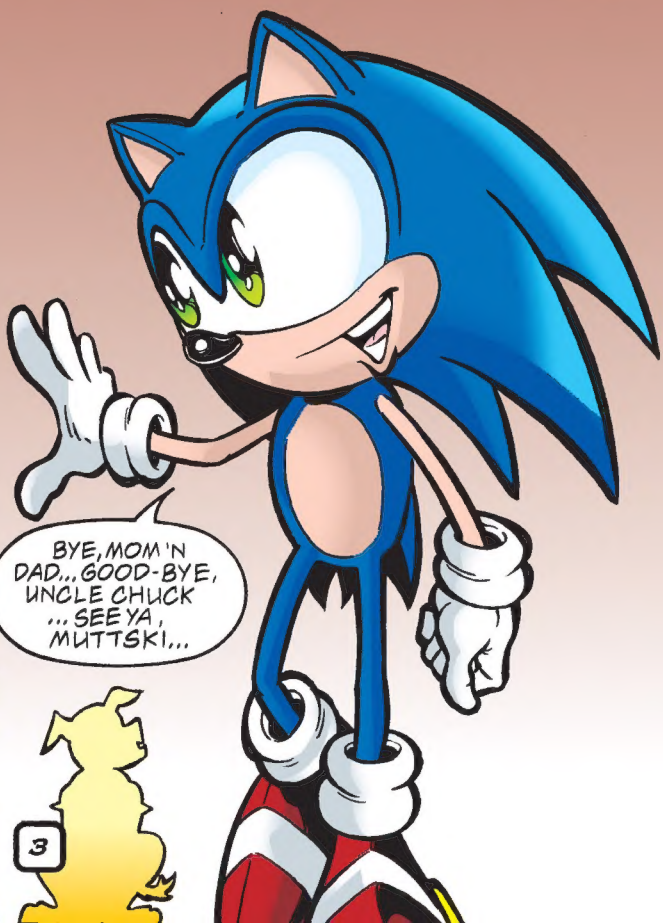
DON'T STAY OUT TOO LATE, SONIC!

AND BE CAREFUL!

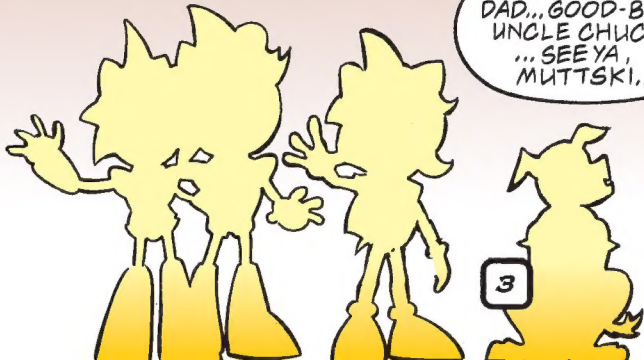


NEXT STOP ON THE "SONIC EXPRESS"... THE SEMI-SANITARY CITY O' MOBOTROPOLIS! CAN YOU HANDLE THE RIDE, NATE?

IF THAT'S A DARE, YOUNGSTER, THEN YOU BET I CAN!



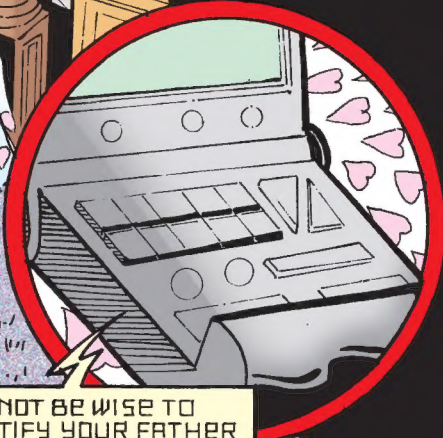
BYE, MOM 'N DAD... GOOD-BYE, UNCLE CHUCK ... SEE YA, MUTTSKI...





MEANWHILE AT  
CASTLE ACORN...

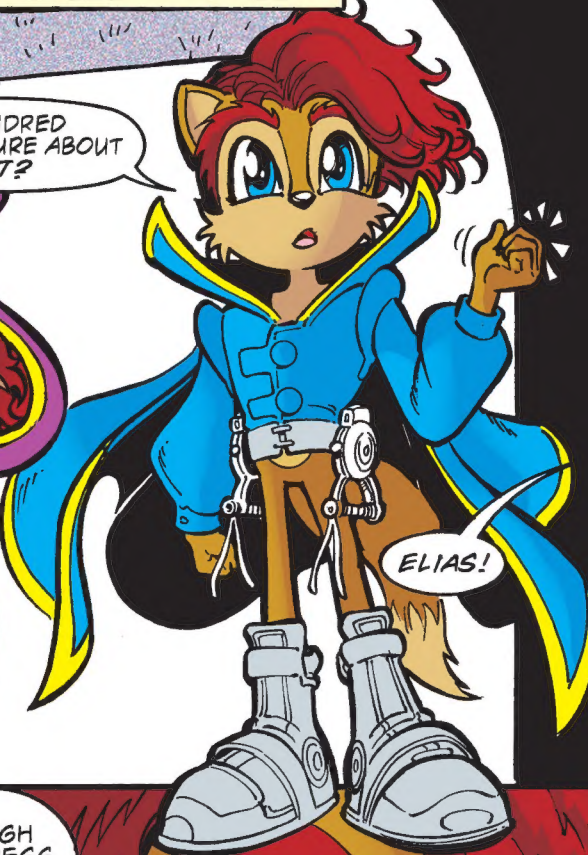
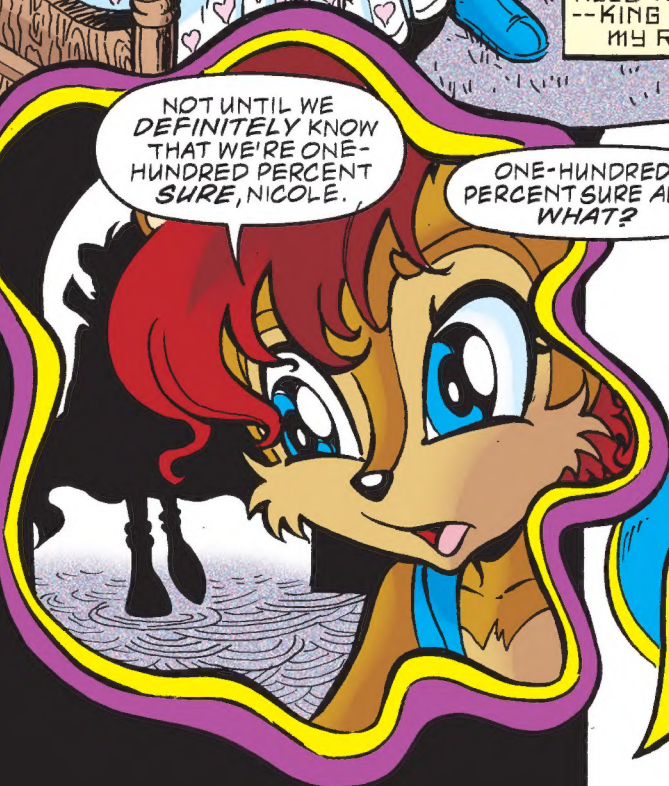
WELL, NICOLE,  
I'VE CONTACTED  
EVERYONE AND  
THEY SHOULD BE  
HERE SHORTLY.



WOULD IT NOT BE WISE TO  
ALSO NOTIFY YOUR FATHER  
-- KING MAXIMILLIAN -- OF  
MY RECENT FINDINGS?

NOT UNTIL WE  
DEFINITELY KNOW  
THAT WE'RE ONE-  
HUNDRED PERCENT  
SURE, NICOLE.

ONE-HUNDRED  
PERCENT SURE ABOUT  
WHAT?



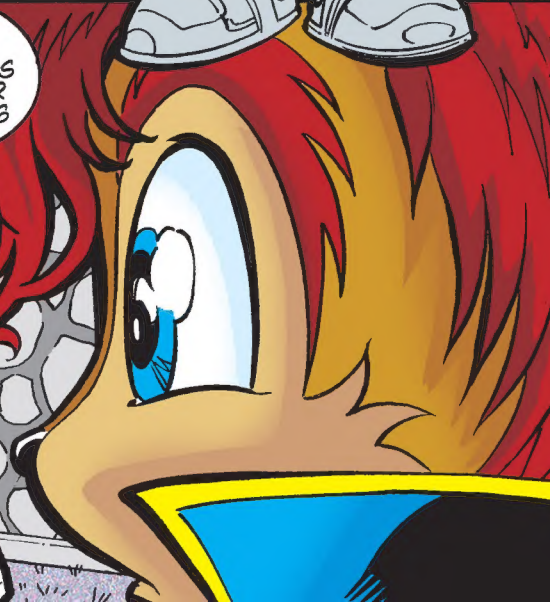
ELIAS!

I-I DIDN'T SEE  
YOU STANDING  
THERE!

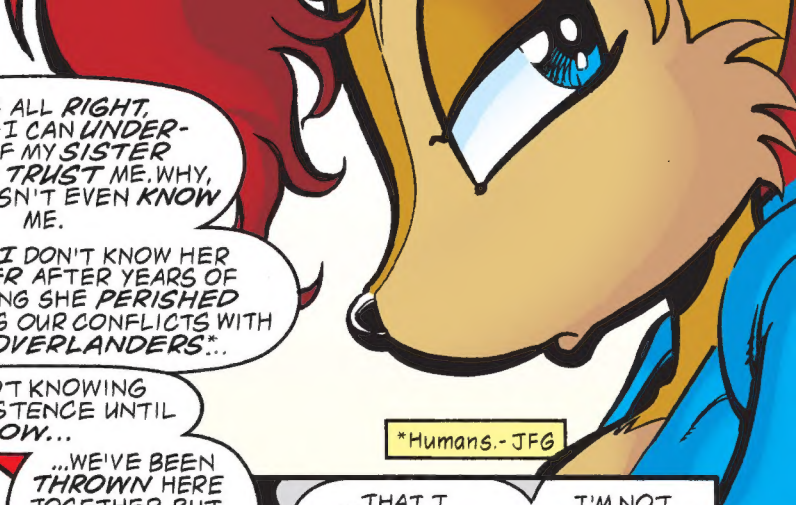
WELL, I WAS  
THERE LONG ENOUGH  
TO HEAR THE DISTRESS  
AND AGITATION IN YOUR  
VOICE. WHAT'S GOING  
ON, SALLY?

I'M SURE  
IT'S NOTHING--  
REALLY.

PERHAPS YOU  
SHOULD AT LEAST  
TELL YOUR BROTHER,  
PRINCESS SALLY.







THAT'S ALL RIGHT, NICOLE--I CAN UNDERSTAND IF MY SISTER DOESN'T TRUST ME, WHY, SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME.

AND I DON'T KNOW HER EITHER AFTER YEARS OF THINKING SHE PERISHED DURING OUR CONFLICTS WITH THE OVERLANDERS\*..

...AND NOT KNOWING OF MY EXISTENCE UNTIL NOW...

...WE'VE BEEN THROWN HERE TOGETHER, BUT WE'VE ALSO BEEN AVOIDING EACH OTHER.

I'D LIKE HER TO KNOW...

\*Humans.-JFG

... THAT I ONLY WISH HER THE BEST.

I'M NOT SAYING THIS BECAUSE I HAVE TO, BUT I HAVE A LOT ON MY MIND.

I COULDN'T TALK TO FATHER-- HE'S SO PREOCCUPIED WITH MOTHER'S ILLNESS.

THAT, AND AFFAIRS OF STATE, DEMAND ALL HIS TIME AND ATTENTION.

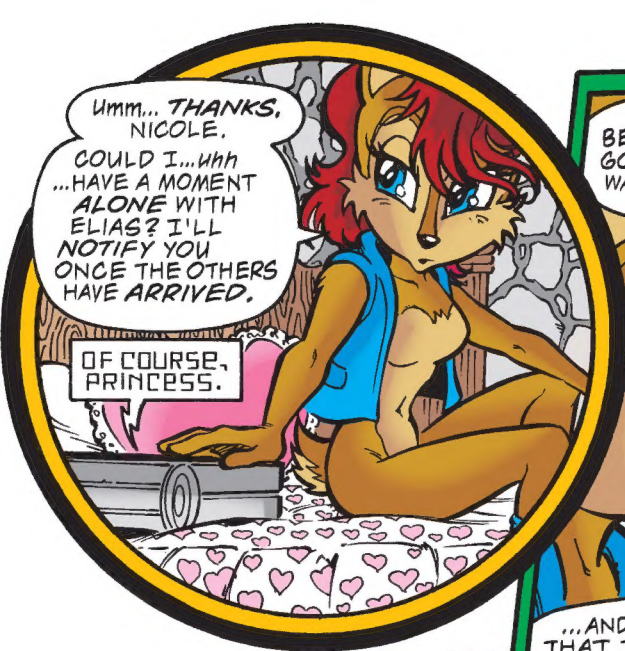
WHAT I'M SAYING IS... I'M HAVING QUITE A TIME GETTING USED TO MY NEW LIFE HERE...

...AND I REALLY NEEDED TO TALK TO SOMEONE. I THINK THAT PERSON HAPPENS TO BE SALLY.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND, NICOLE?

YES.





Umm... THANKS, NICOLE. COULD I...hhh ...HAVE A MOMENT ALONE WITH ELIAS? I'LL NOTIFY YOU ONCE THE OTHERS HAVE ARRIVED.

OF COURSE, PRINCESS.



I KNOW THAT YOUR LIFE'S BEEN TOPSEY-TURVY SINCE YOU GOT HERE, BUT IT'S BEEN THE SAME WAY FOR ME! I MEAN--ONE DAY I'M AN ONLY CHILD...

...AND THE NEXT, I LEARN THAT I HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER WHO'S BEEN SCHEDULED TO RULE IN MY PLACE!



BUT THAT'S JUST IT, SALLY-- I HAVE NO DESIRE TO RULE THE KINGDOM OF ACORN!

WHAT?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE FINALLY TOLD SOMEONE ..

ELIAS--I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND..



I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND--FIRST WITH THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS, AND THEN ROAMING THE FORBIDDEN ZONE...

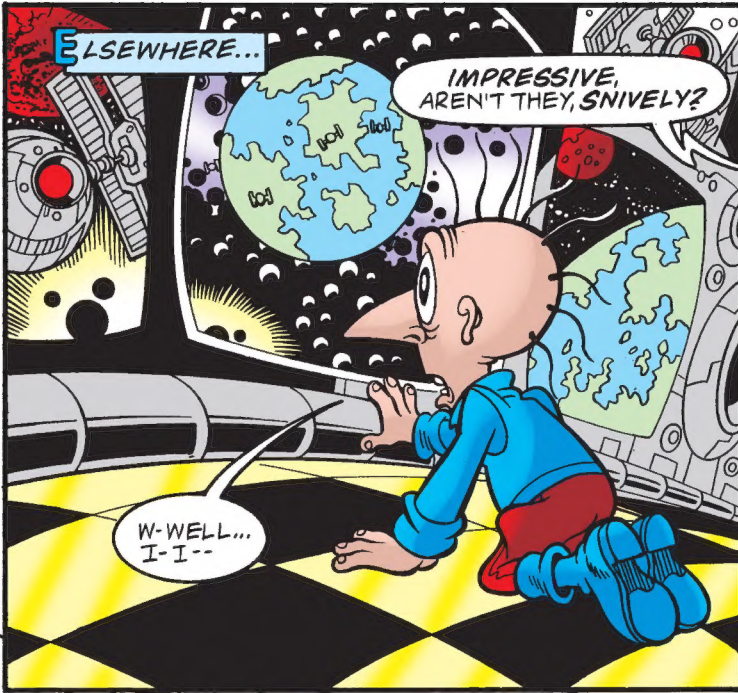
...DREAMING OF SOMEDAY CURING MY MOTHER AND FINDING ADVENTURE. I NEVER WANTED TO BE KING.



WHY ON MOBIUS HAVEN'T YOU TOLD DAD?

WOULD HE REALLY UNDERSTAND--OR LISTEN?

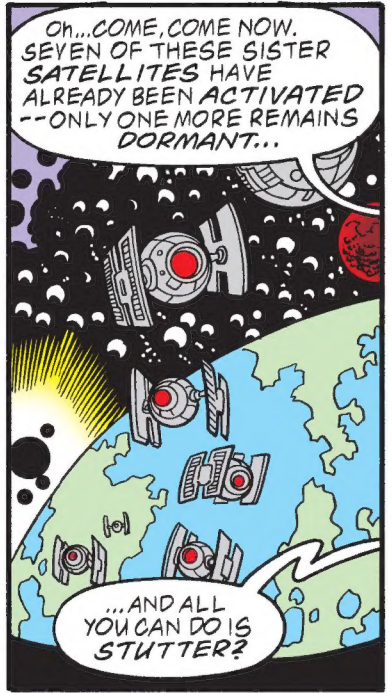




ELSEWHERE...

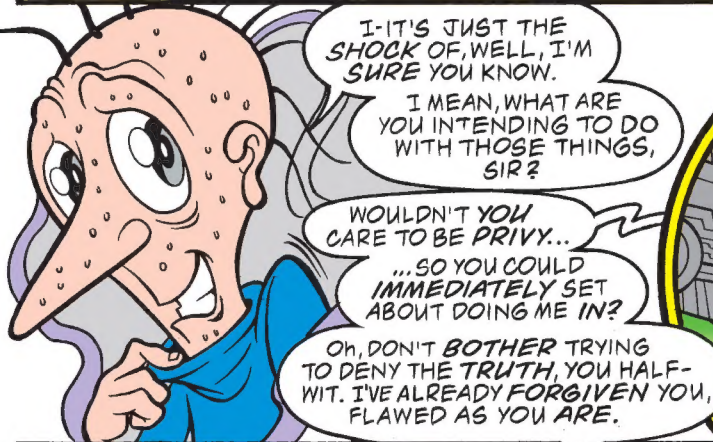
IMPRESSIVE, AREN'T THEY, SNIVELY?

W-WELL... I-I--



Oh...COME, COME NOW. SEVEN OF THESE SISTER SATELLITES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACTIVATED -- ONLY ONE MORE REMAINS DORMANT...

...AND ALL YOU CAN DO IS STUTTER?



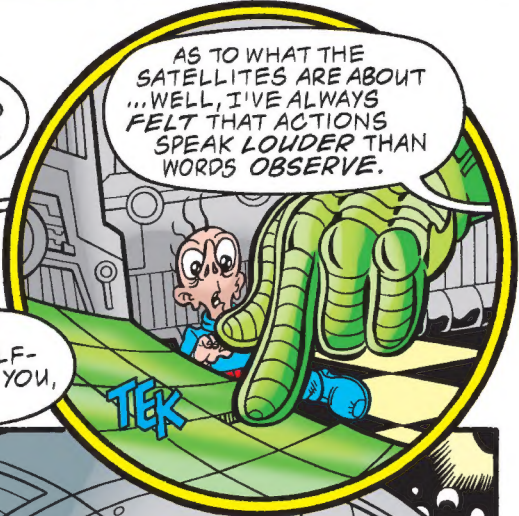
I-IT'S JUST THE SHOCK OF, WELL, I'M SURE YOU KNOW.

I MEAN, WHAT ARE YOU INTENDING TO DO WITH THOSE THINGS, SIR?

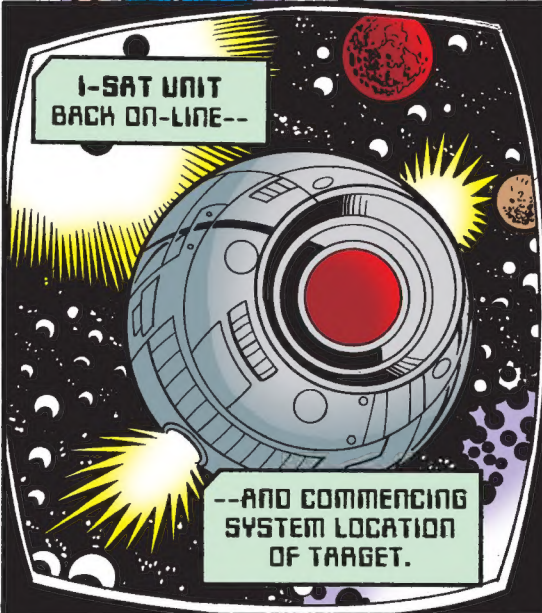
WOULDN'T YOU CARE TO BE PRIVY...

...SO YOU COULD IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT DOING ME IN?

Oh, DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO DENY THE TRUTH, YOU HALF-WIT. I'VE ALREADY FORGIVEN YOU, FLAWED AS YOU ARE.

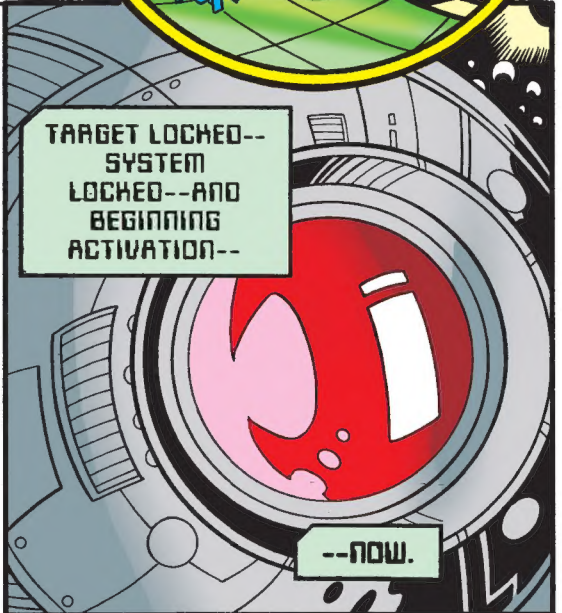


AS TO WHAT THE SATELLITES ARE ABOUT ...WELL, I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS OBSERVE.



I-SAT UNIT BACK ON-LINE--

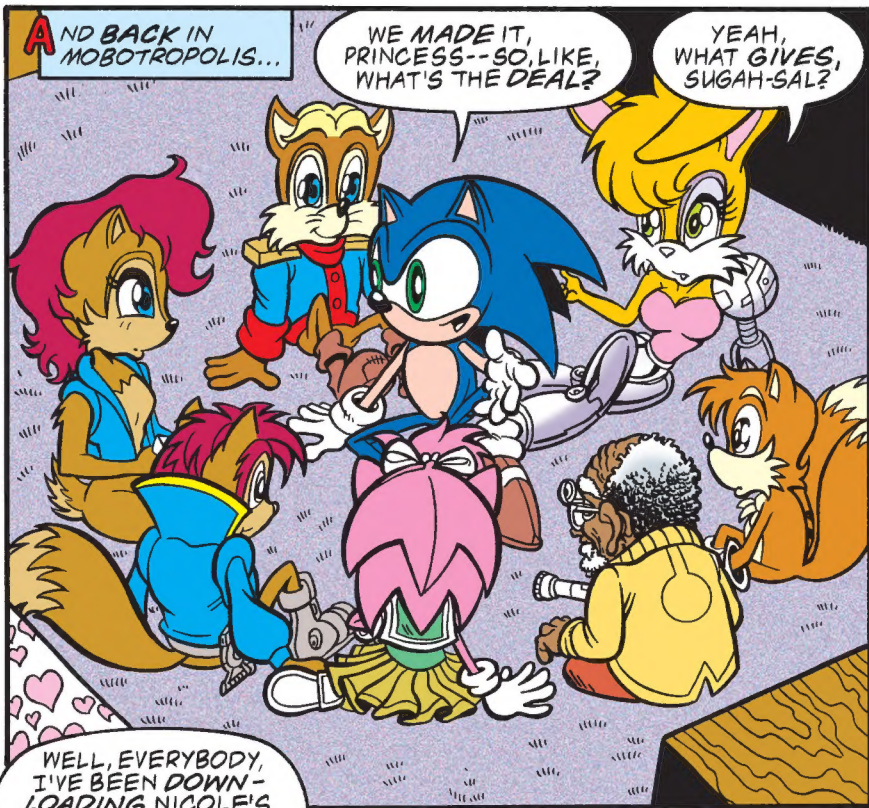
--AND COMMENCING SYSTEM LOCATION OF TARGET.



TARGET LOCKED-- SYSTEM LOCKED-- AND BEGINNING ACTIVATION--

--NOW.





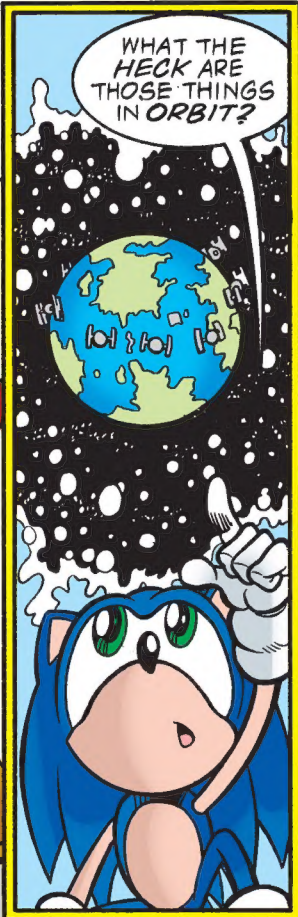
**A**ND BACK IN MOBOTROPOLIS...

WE MADE IT, PRINCESS--SO, LIKE, WHAT'S THE DEAL?

YEAH, WHAT GIVES, SUGAH-SAL?

WELL, EVERYBODY, I'VE BEEN DOWN-LOADING NICOLE'S ASTRONOMICS FILES INTO OUR ROYAL RECORDS...  
... AND WHAT I'VE LEARNED IS STARTLING! NICOLE?

DISPLAYING HOLOGRAPHIC SIMULATION OF MOBIUS' UPPER ATMOSPHERE AS IT APPEARED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO



WHAT THE HECK ARE THOSE THINGS IN ORBIT?

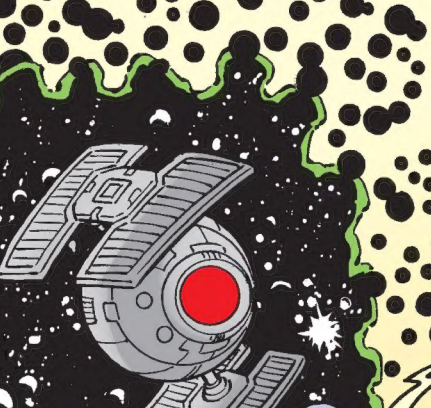


THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DETERMINE.



A-SAT UNIT LINKING WITH O-SAT UNIT...





THE SATELLITE SEEN HERE WAS ACTIVATED TWO MONTHS AGO DIRECTLY OVER THE DEVIL'S ISLAND GULAG, WHOEVER WAS BEHIND THIS ACTION REMAINS A MYSTERY.

OF FURTHER NOTE IS THE FACT THAT THE OBJECT'S ACTIVATION DATE COINCIDED WITH THE DAY OF THE JAIL BREAK BY THE GULAG'S INMATES.\*

\*Read SONIC # 62-63--JFG



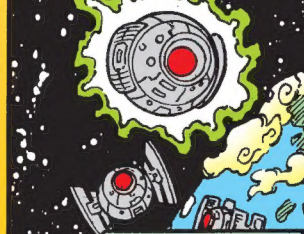
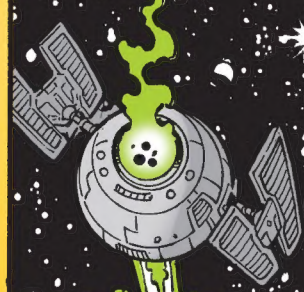
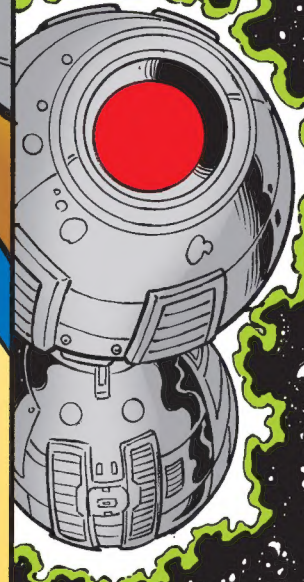
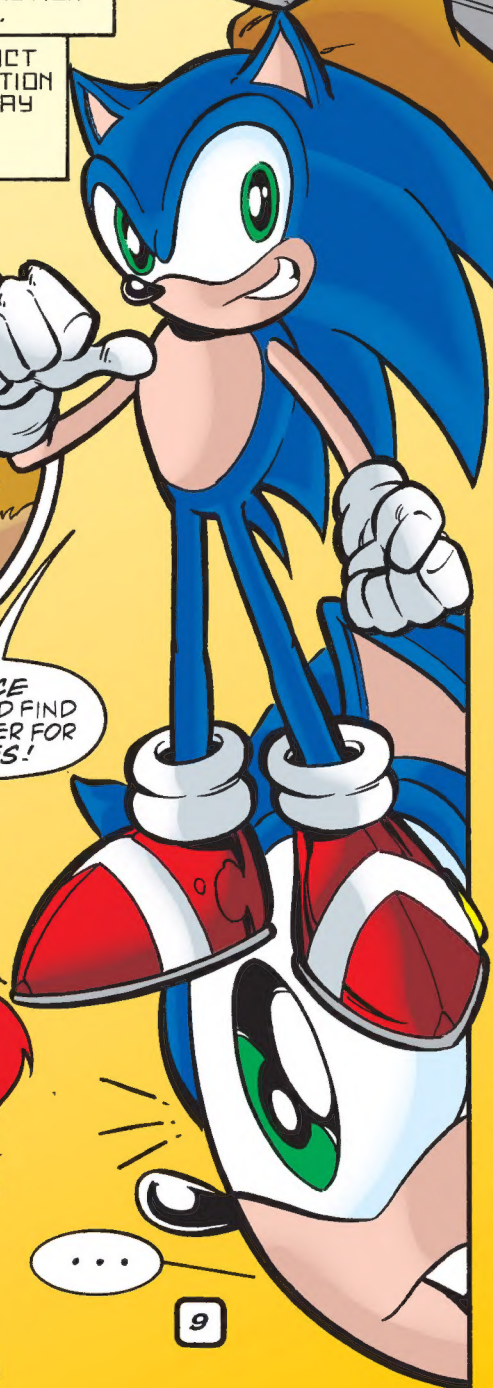
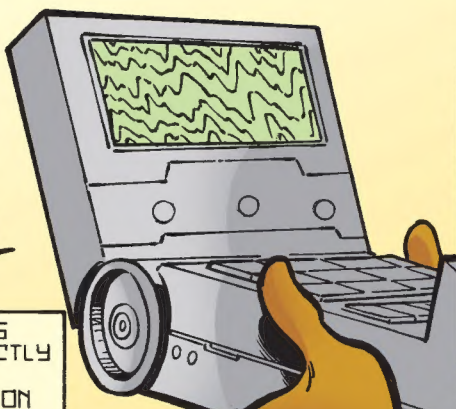
GOSH, "AUNT" SALLY-- D'YOU THINK THERE'S SOME KIND OF CONNECTION?

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, TAILS.

I SAY WE JUICE ON UP THERE AND FIND OUT THE ANSWER FOR OURSELVES!

WE CAN'T DO THAT, SONIC--NOT UNTIL WE'VE HEARD ALL THE DATA.

NOW SIT, PLEASE.



B-SAT UNIT LINKING WITH O-SAT UNIT...



THE SECOND SATELLITE ACTIVATED ONE WEEK LATER OVER THE REGION KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN TUNDRA.

SEISMIC ACTIVITY ACROSS THAT CONTINENT INCREASED MARKEDLY CAUSING SEVERAL AVALANCHES.

DON'T I KNOW IT--TAILS, EDDY THE SNOW-BOT AND I WERE BURIED BY ONE OF 'EM WHILE WE WERE TACKLIN' IXIS NAUGHS!\*

\*Read issue #64--JFG

EDDY SAVED OUR BUTTS...

WHAT ELSE'VE YA FOUND OUT, SAL?

JUST A MINUTE...

T-SAT UNIT LINKING WITH N-SAT UNIT...



THE NEXT SATELLITE WAS ACTIVATED ABOVE THE GREAT RAINFOREST THREE DAYS AFTER.

WAITAMINNIT! THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE WE WERE ATTACKED BY A SQUAD OF HOSTILE ROBBIANS!\*

AND THREE DAYS AFTER THE AVALANCHE MEANS IT WAS EXACTLY WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED, L'I'L BUDDY!

COULD THE SATELLITE HAVE SOMEHOW BEEN CONTROLLING THEM?

\*Read ish #67--JF6

THE VERY NEXT DAY, A FOURTH MYSTERY-SATELLITE THAT HAD ACTIVATED OVER MOBOTROPOLIS APPARENTLY UTILIZED A TRACTOR BEAM...

TO PULL SEVERAL PASSING METEORITES TOWARD THE

I-SAT UNIT LINKING WITH H-SAT UNIT...

\*Read ish #68--JF6

JUST IN TIME FOR MY BIRTHDAY...

AND MY RETURN TO THE KINGDOM AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS AWAY!

I-SAT UNIT LINKING WITH H-SAT UNIT...



THE FIFTH SATELLITE WAS UP AND RUNNING FOUR DAYS LATER...

...OVER WEST ROBOTROPOLIS ON BIG KAHUNA ISLAND.

LEMME TAKE A WILD GUESS--COULD IT HAVE BEEN ON THE SAME DAY WE FOUGHT THE ESCAPED CONS FROM THE DEVIL'S ISLAND?

THE SAME DAY THAT SNIVELY BIT THE DUST?\*

AFFIRMATIVE.

\*Read ish# 70--JFG

IT WAS TOO BAD SNIVELY WAS AS TWISTED AS HIS UNCLE JULIAN. ALAS, THE POOR LAD MET A SIMILAR FATE...

WHO'S TO SAY HE DID MEET A SIMILAR FATE?

I MEAN JUST THINK--SNIVELY WAS THE ONE WHO REPORTEDLY MASTER-MINDED THE BREAK-OUT FROM THE GULAG...\*

...AND I WAS THERE WHEN HE WAS DRAGGED UNDERWATER BY THAT ROBOTIC SQUID.\*\* BUT LET'S SUPPOSE THAT HIS "DEATH" WAS MERELY A CLEVER MEANS OF HIDING HIS ESCAPE?

\*Read ish# 62-63  
\*\*Again, ish # 70-JFG

SAT UNITS PREPARING FOR FINAL PHASE LINK-UP...



TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE FIFTH SATELLITE CAME TO LIFE, THE SIXTH ONE FOLLOWER SUIT...

...THIS TIME ABOVE THE REGION KNOWN AS KNOTHOLE VILLAGE VALLEY.

SONIC--THAT WAS ON THE SAME DAY KNOTHOLE WAS HIT BY THAT WEIRD ENERGY BEAM--

I KNOW, SAL-- THE SAME ONE THAT ALMOST DESTROYED REALITY AS WE KNOW IT!\*

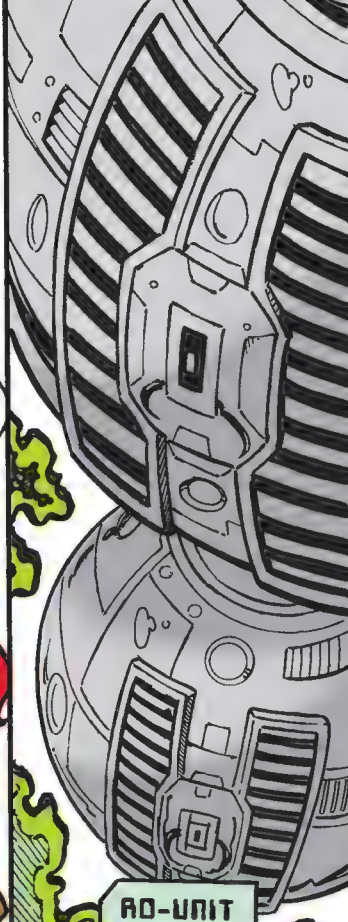
\*Read ish # 71--JFG

THE SEVENTH SATELLITE WAS ACTIVATED LAST NIGHT OVER MOBOTROPOLIS WHILE THE EIGHTH ONE APPEARED TO BE INACTIVE AT THE TIME MY FILES WERE DOWNLOADED.

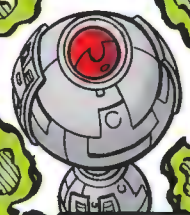
EET WAS LAST EVENING ZAT KEENG MAX'S ADDRESS TO ZEE PUBLEEK WAS SUDDENLY REPLACED--

...BY A BROADCAST DEVOTED TO THE LATE DOCTUH ROBOTNIK'S LIFE HISTORY!\*

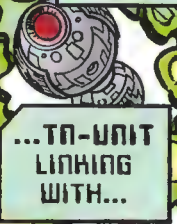
\*See last ish--JFG



RD-UNIT LINKING WITH...



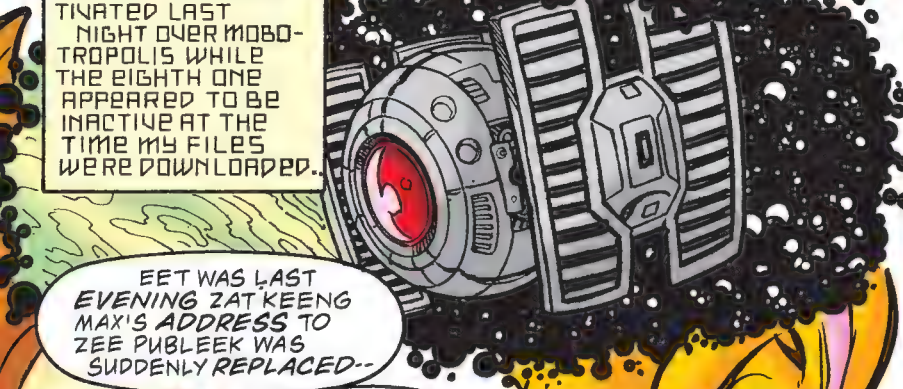
...BD-UNIT LINKING WITH...



...TD-UNIT LINKING WITH...



...IH-UNIT.



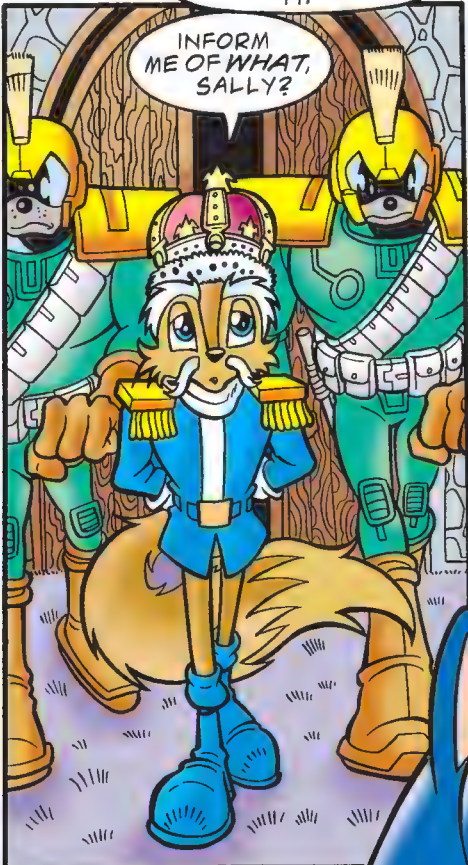




OKAY, EVERYONE--  
--THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT SOMETHING FISHY'S GOING ON--

--THESE MYSTERY SATELLITES ARE A THREAT TO THE KINGDOM...

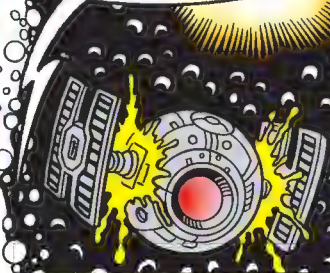
...AND TO THE ENTIRE PLANET! WE HAVE TO INFORM MY FATHER ABOUT IT.



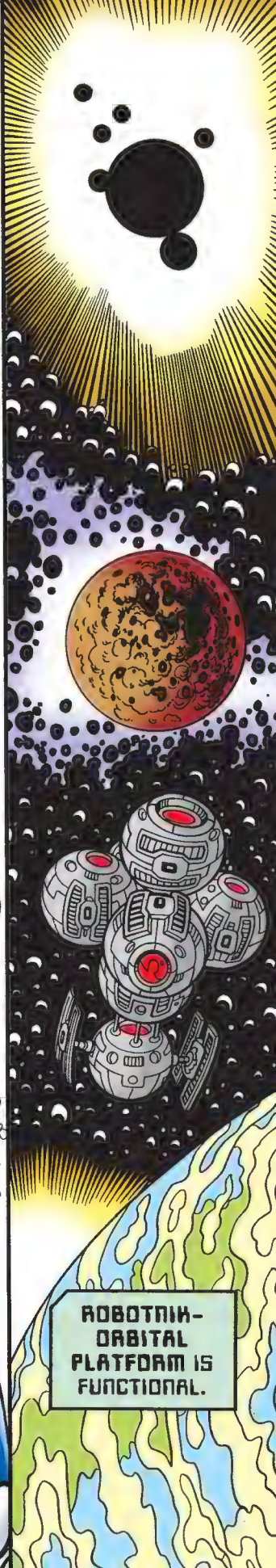
INFORM ME OF WHAT, SALLY?

UPDATING ASTRONOMICS FILE... THE EIGHTH SATELLITE ACTIVATED FORTY-FIVE MINUTES AGO.

Huh?! WHERE DID IT ACTIVATE, NICOLE? OVER WHAT LOCATION?

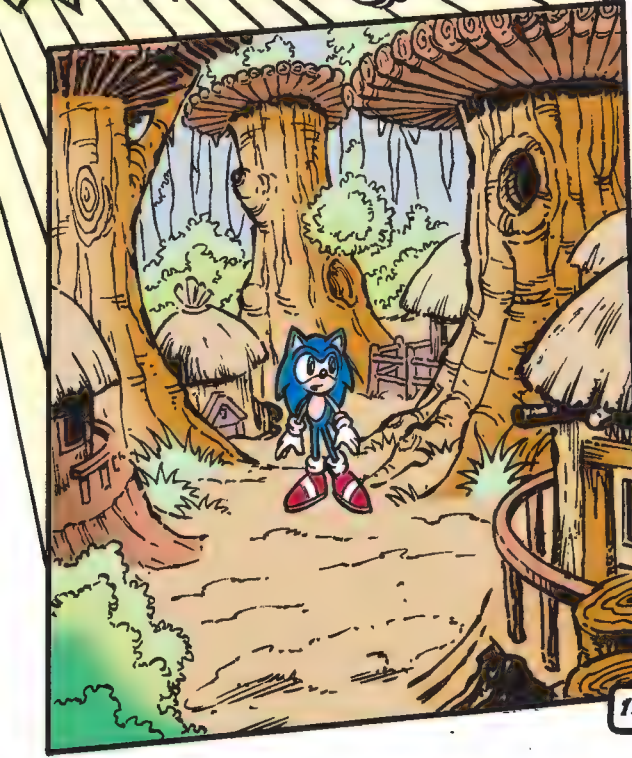
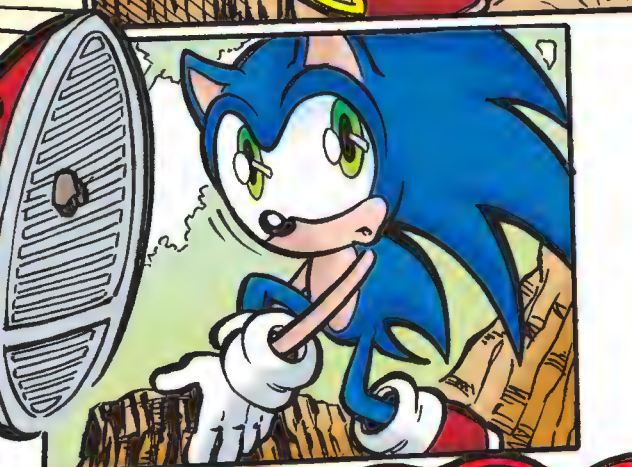
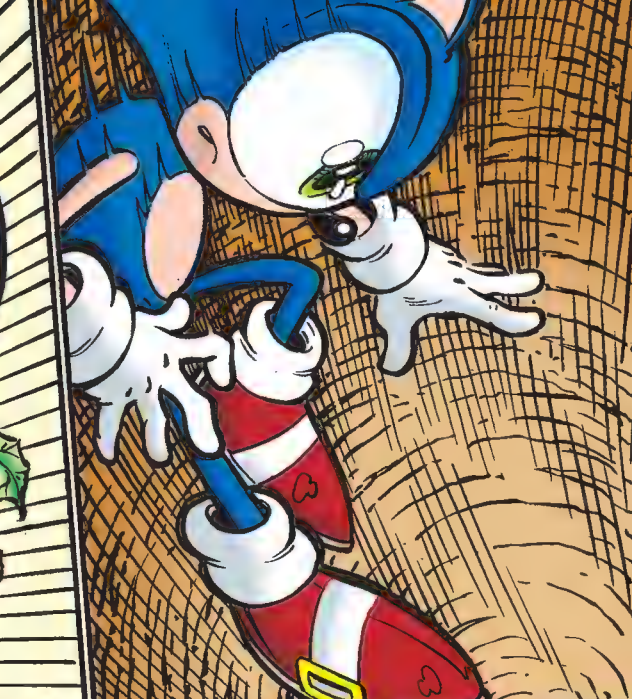


KNOTHOLE VILLAGE.

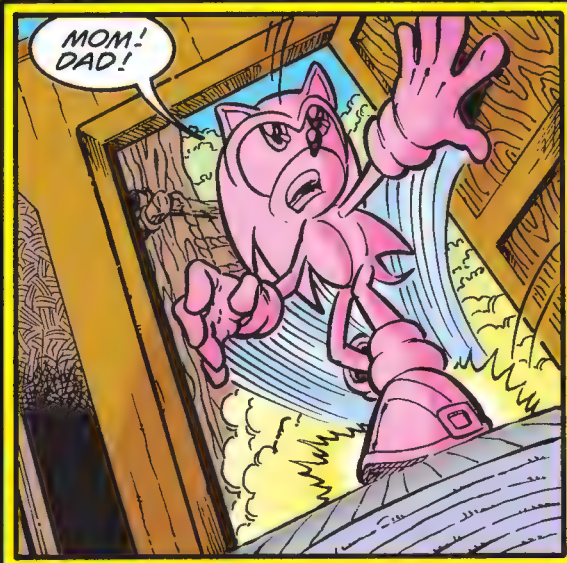


ROBOTNIK-ORBITAL PLATFORM IS FUNCTIONAL.

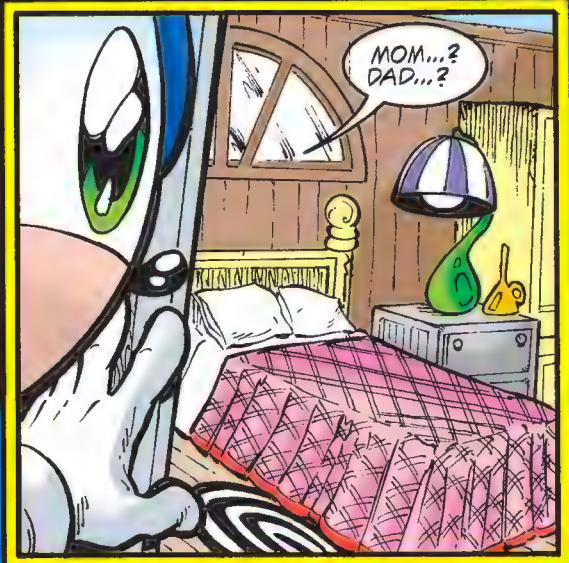








MOM!  
DAD!



MOM...?  
DAD...?



UNCLE  
CHUCK...?



MUTTSKI...?

COME ON  
...THIS ISN'T  
FUNNY...



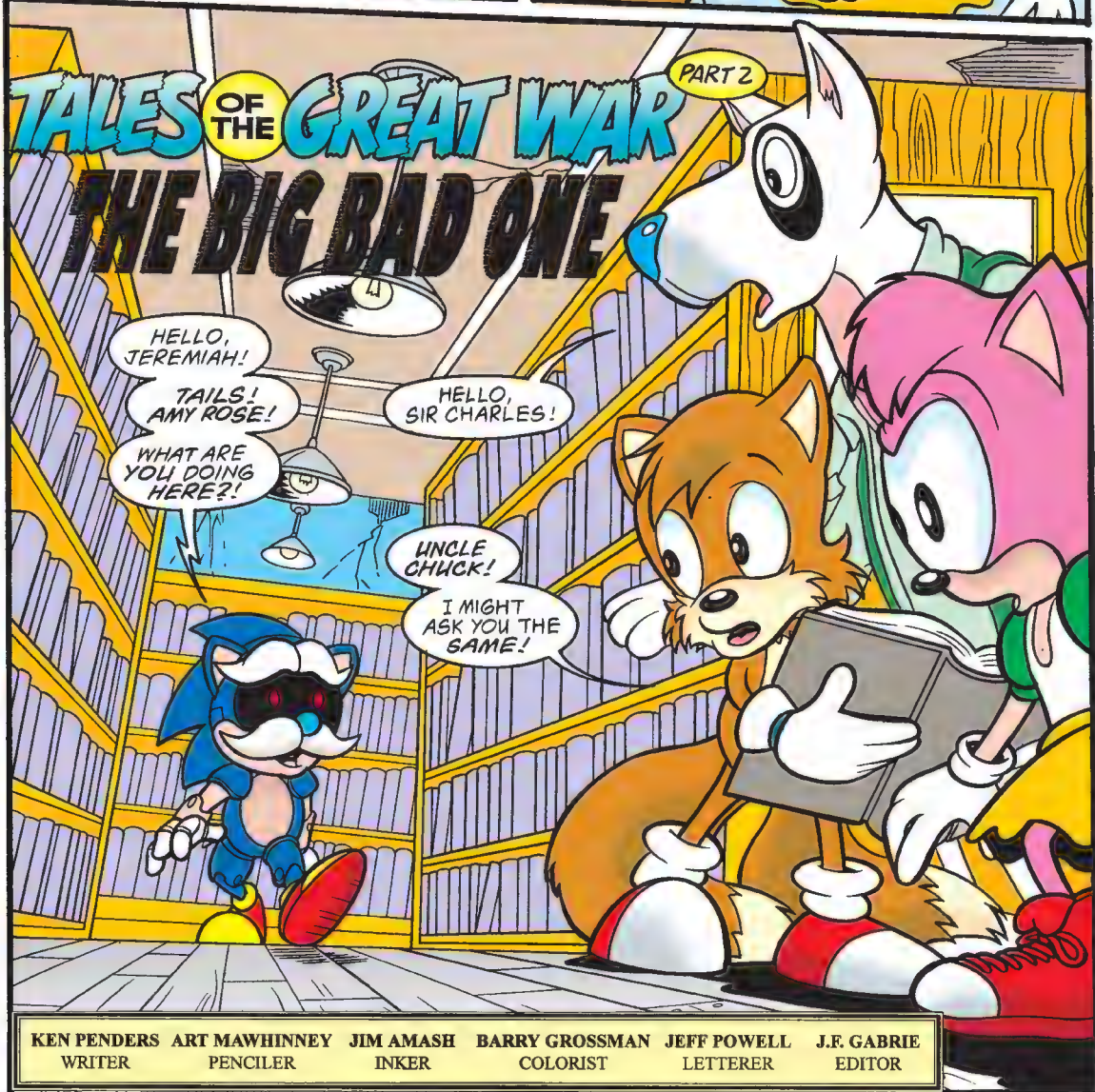
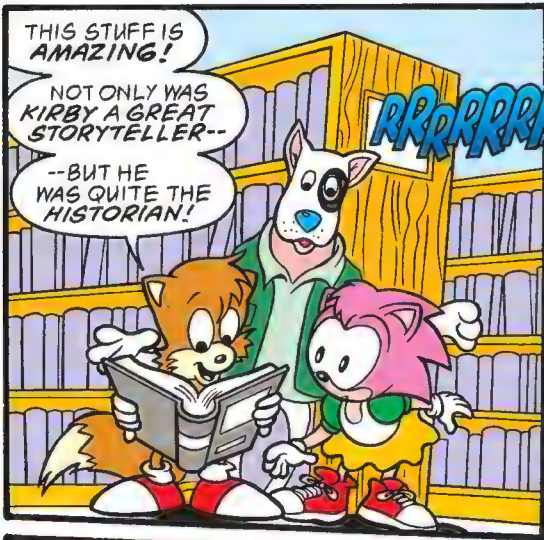
THIS  
ISN'T  
FUNNY.





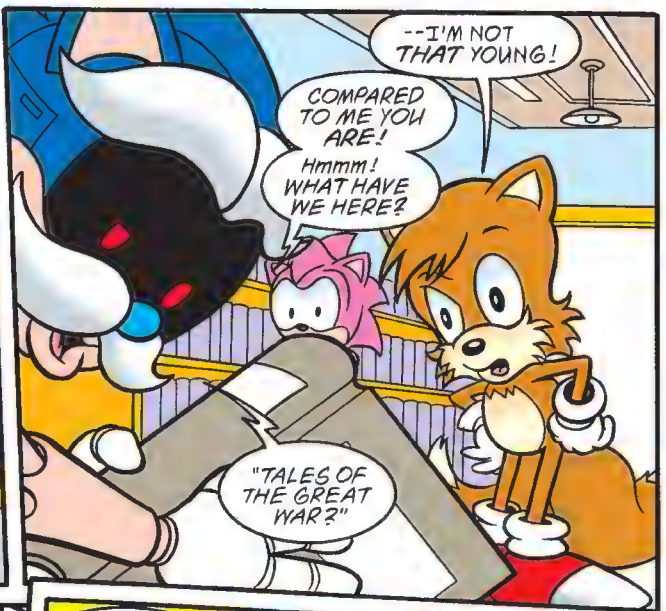
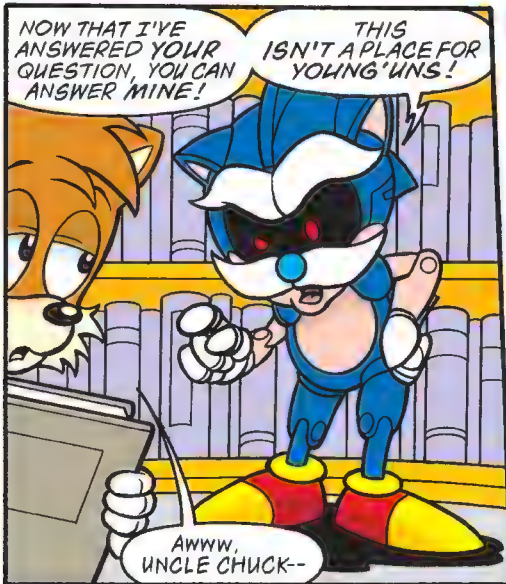
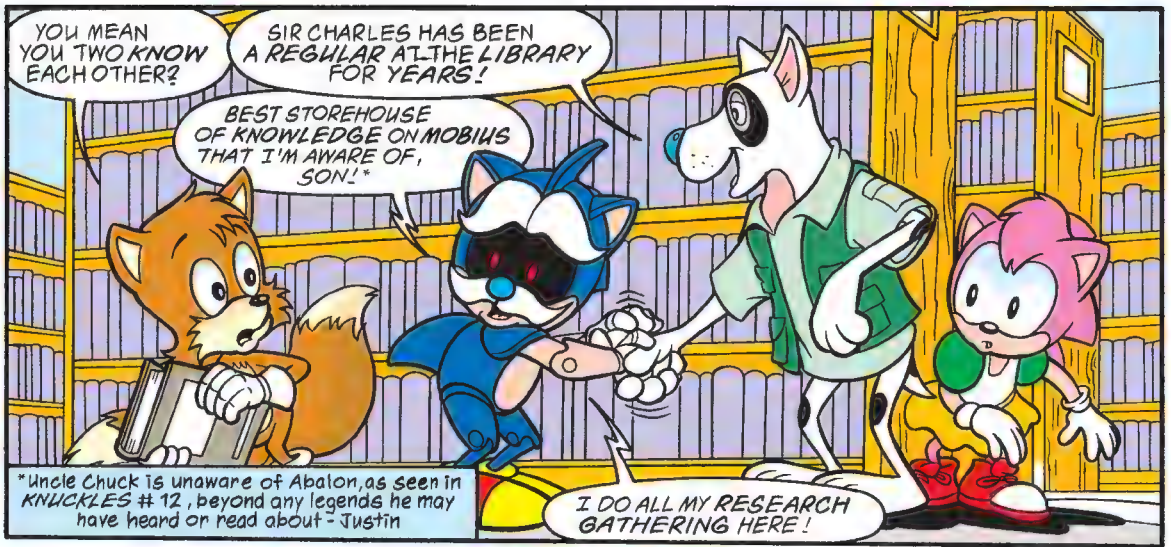


**NOTE:** The following takes place before this issue's main story.

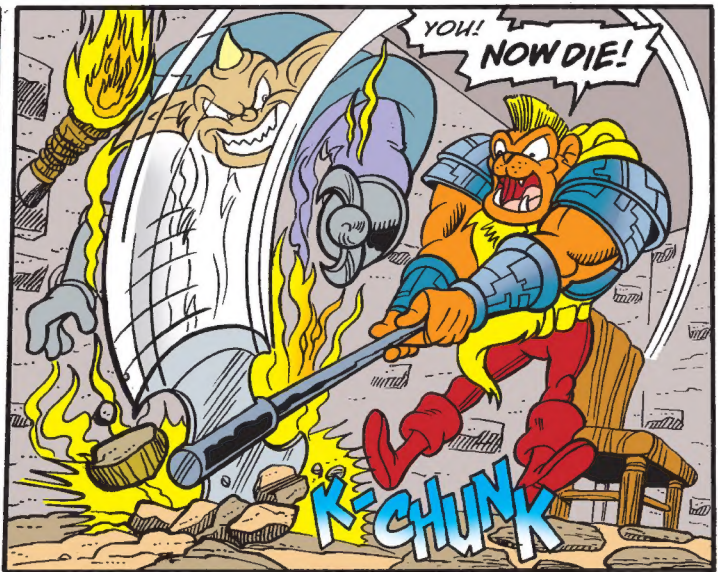
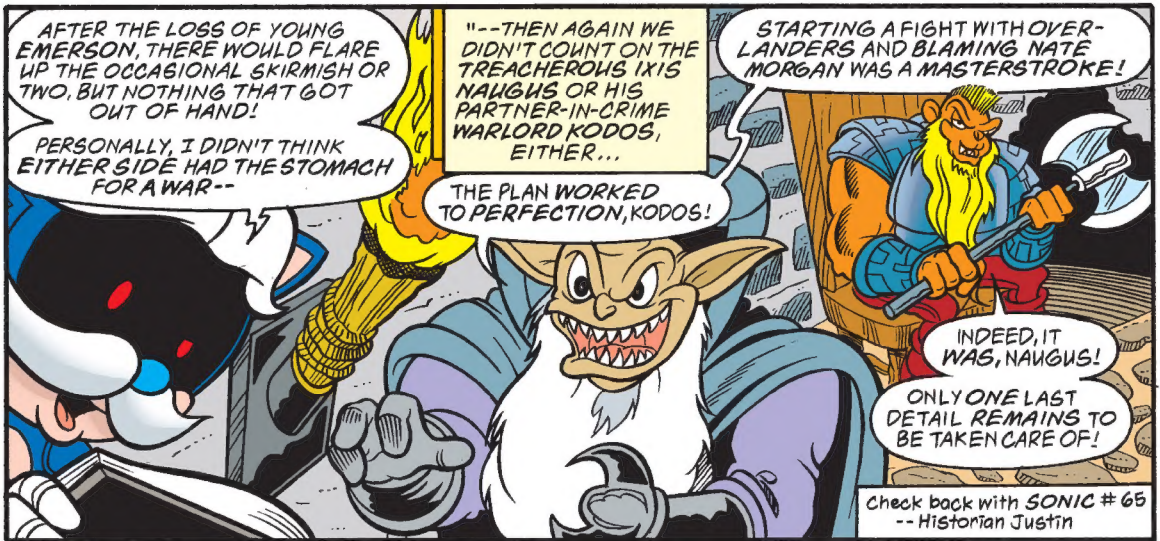
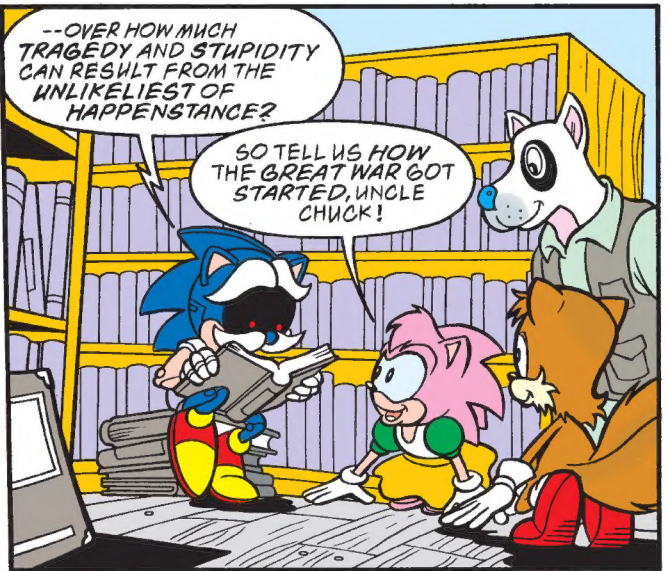
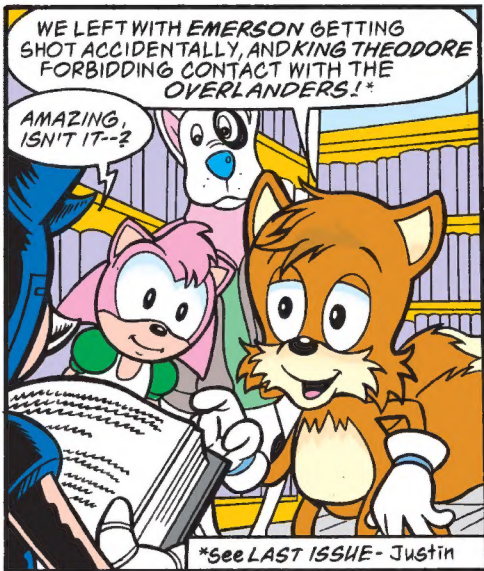


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WRITER PENCILER INKER COLORIST LETTERER EDITOR





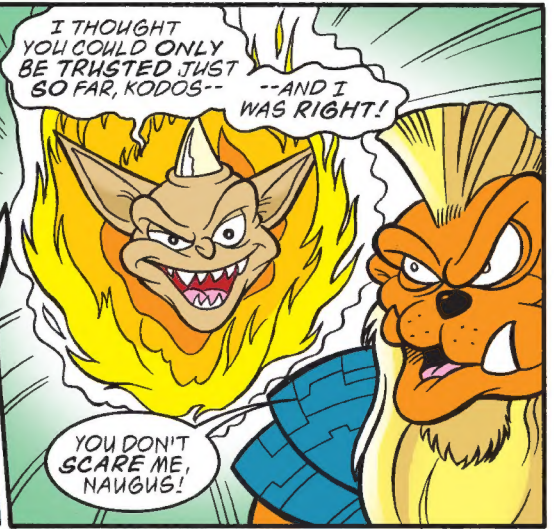






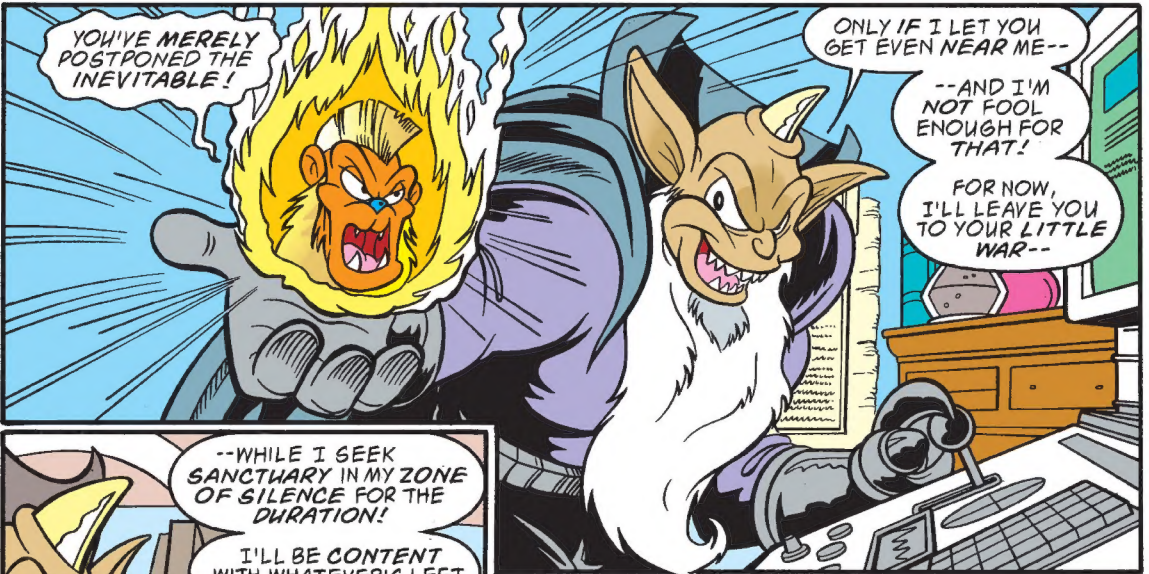


IT'S A TRICK!  
ONE OF  
NAUGHS' BLASTED  
ILLUSIONS!



I THOUGHT  
YOU COULD ONLY  
BE TRUSTED JUST  
SO FAR, KODOS--  
--AND I  
WAS RIGHT!

YOU DON'T  
SCARE ME,  
NAUGHS!



YOU'VE MERELY  
POSTPONED THE  
INEVITABLE!

ONLY IF I LET YOU  
GET EVEN NEAR ME--

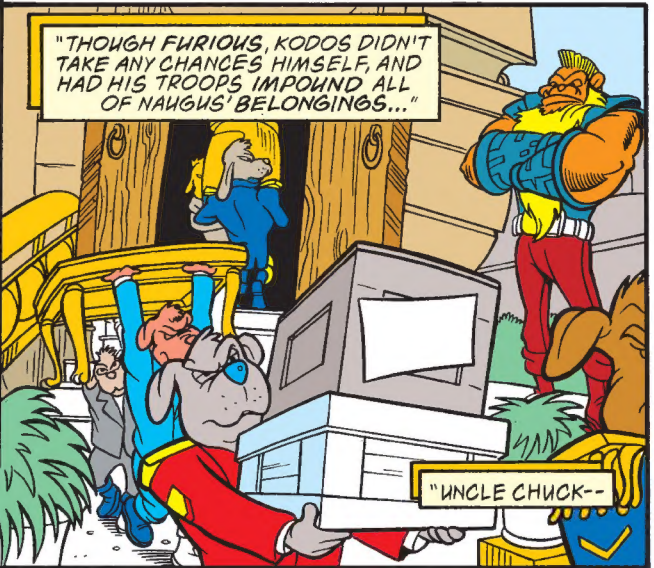
--AND I'M  
NOT FOOL  
ENOUGH FOR  
THAT!

FOR NOW,  
I'LL LEAVE YOU  
TO YOUR LITTLE  
WAR--



--WHILE I SEEK  
SANCTUARY IN MY ZONE  
OF SILENCE FOR THE  
DURATION!

I'LL BE CONTENT  
WITH WHATEVER'S LEFT  
AFTERWARDS!



"THOUGH FURIOUS, KODOS DIDN'T  
TAKE ANY CHANCES HIMSELF, AND  
HAD HIS TROOPS IMPOUND ALL  
OF NAUGHS' BELONGINGS..."

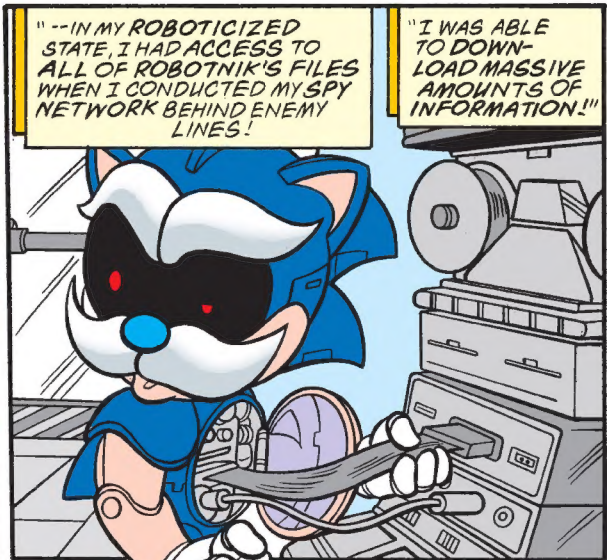
"UNCLE CHUCK--





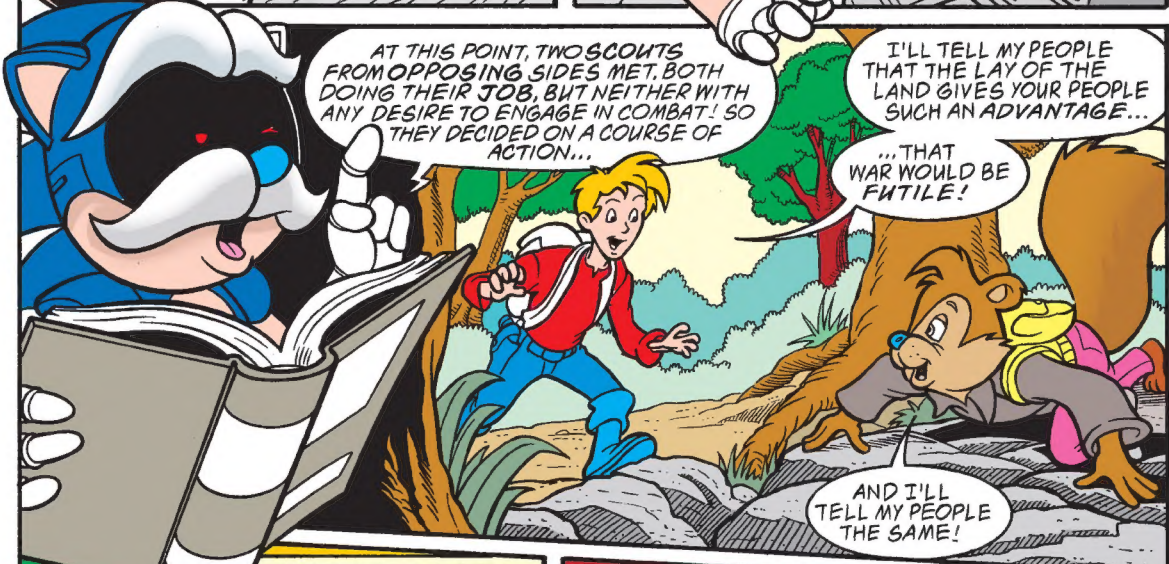
--HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS STUFF?  
EVEN KIRBY WASN'T ABLE TO TELL THE COMPLETE STORY!

YOU FORGET, YOUNGSTER--



"--IN MY ROBOTICIZED STATE, I HAD ACCESS TO ALL OF ROBOTNIK'S FILES WHEN I CONDUCTED MY SPY NETWORK BEHIND ENEMY LINES!

"I WAS ABLE TO DOWN-LOAD MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION!"

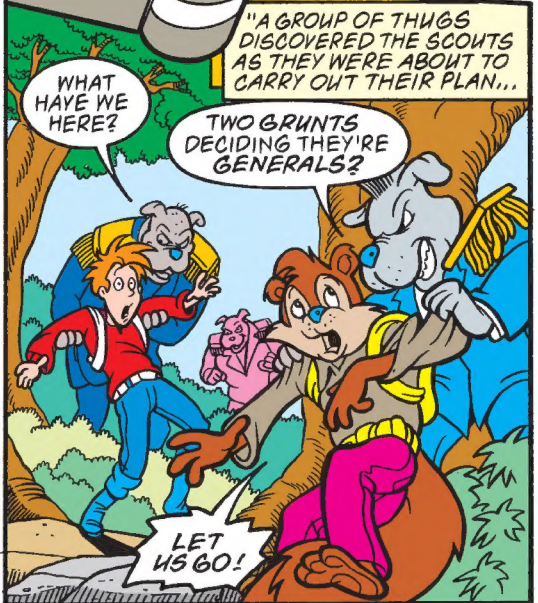


AT THIS POINT, TWO SCOUTS FROM OPPOSING SIDES MET, BOTH DOING THEIR JOB, BUT NEITHER WITH ANY DESIRE TO ENGAGE IN COMBAT! SO THEY DECIDED ON A COURSE OF ACTION...

I'LL TELL MY PEOPLE THAT THE LAY OF THE LAND GIVES YOUR PEOPLE SUCH AN ADVANTAGE...

... THAT WAR WOULD BE FUTILE!

AND I'LL TELL MY PEOPLE THE SAME!

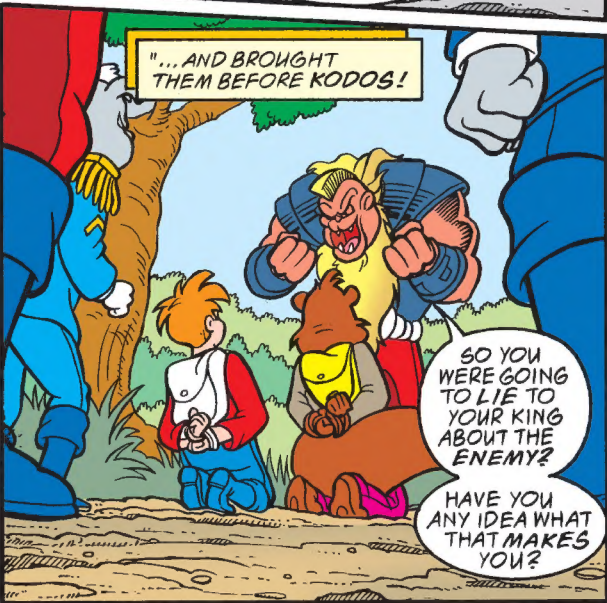


WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

"A GROUP OF THUGS DISCOVERED THE SCOUTS AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLAN..."

TWO GRUNTS DECIDING THEY'RE GENERALS?

LET US GO!

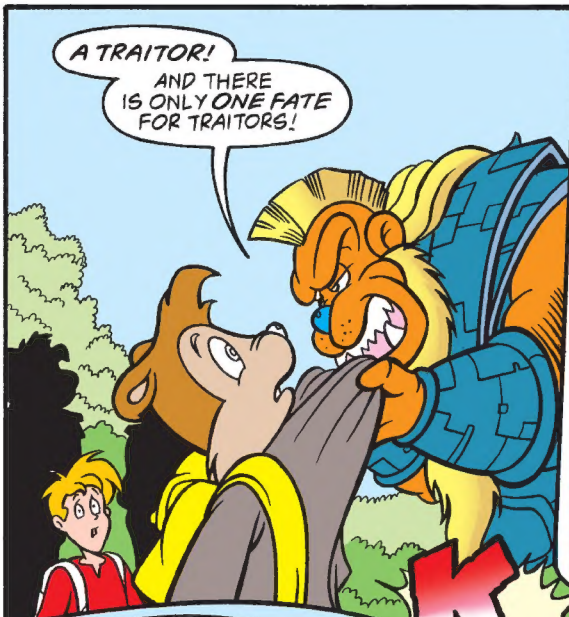


"... AND BROUGHT THEM BEFORE KODOS!

SO YOU WERE GOING TO LIE TO YOUR KING ABOUT THE ENEMY?

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THAT MAKES YOU?

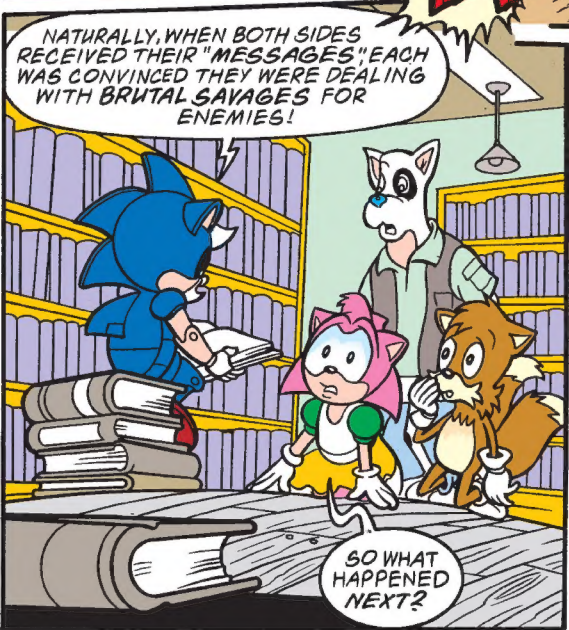




A TRAITOR!  
AND THERE IS ONLY ONE FATE FOR TRAITORS!



AS FOR THE ENEMIES OF THE STATE...

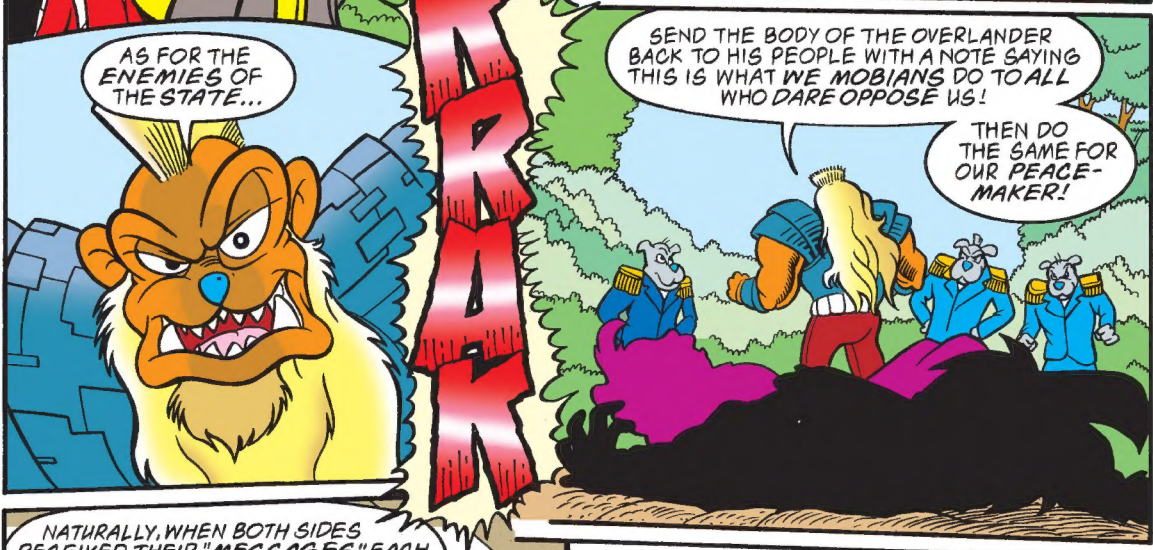


NATURALLY, WHEN BOTH SIDES RECEIVED THEIR "MESSAGES" EACH WAS CONVINCED THEY WERE DEALING WITH BRUTAL SAVAGES FOR ENEMIES!

SO WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?



**KRAAAAK**  
NOOOOOO!



SEND THE BODY OF THE OVERLANDER BACK TO HIS PEOPLE WITH A NOTE SAYING THIS IS WHAT WE MOBBIANS DO TO ALL WHO DARE OPPOSE US!

THEN DO THE SAME FOR OUR PEACE-MAKER!

IF YOU THOUGHT THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE ALREADY...

YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!

TREACHERY AND BACKSTABBING BECOME A WAY OF LIFE WHEN  
**ROBOTNIK JOINS THE MOBBIANS!**